

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/674,809

Q77797

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figures 1 and 3 with the attached, amended Figures 1 and 3.

Attachment: Two (2) Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Formalities

With this Amendment, Applicant amends Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 16-19 and cancels Claims 1, 9, 12, and 15. Therefore, Claims 2-8, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 16-26 are all the claims currently pending in the present Application. Claims 23-26 stand withdrawn.

In the current Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges Applicant's claim to foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents.

Title

The Title stands objected to as insufficiently descriptive. Applicant amends the title herewith and respectfully requests that the objection thereto be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Figures

Figure 3 stands objected to due to informalities. Applicant herewith amends Figure 3 as shown. Applicant also amends Figure 1 to correct a minor informality. Applicant requests that the objection to the Figures be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 7, 8, 17, and 22 stand objected to due to informalities. Applicant herewith amends Claims 7, 8, 17, and 22 to correct these informalities and respectfully requests that the objections thereto be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter and Claim Rejections

In the current Office Action, the Examiner indicates that Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 19-22 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including the limitations of the claims from which they depend:

Claims 1, 4, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ozasa, U.S. Patent No. 5,943,530 (“Ozasa”), in view of Kobayashi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,307,127 (“Kobayashi”). Claims 12, 15, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ozasa, in view of Kobayashi and Yoneda et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,226,481 (“Yoneda”).

With this Amendment, Applicant amends allowable Claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 13, and 14 into independent form. Applicant amends Claims 4 and 5 to depend from Claims 2 and 3, in the alternative, and amends Claims 18 and 19 to depend from Claims 16 and 17, in the alternative. Claims 1, 9, 12, and 15 are cancelled.

Therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 13, and 14 are patentable and that Claims 4-8 and 18-22 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: November 10, 2005



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